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Photo by Staff Sgt. Markus Maier

377th Air Base Wing works together to survive exercise

Col. Linda Jones, 377th Mission Support Group commander (left), and Capt. Damon P. Scott, 377th Staff Judge Advocate officer, combine their efforts to fill sandbags during OPERATION CALMING PRESENCE. The Phase II exercise

was a 39-hour bare-base deployment providing base support to an existing humanitarian aid mission. Participants were chosen from Aerospace Expeditionary Forces five and nine.

Precision lab certified by AF

BY 2ND LT PETER HOWARD

377th Maintenance Group

The Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory was awarded a Certificate of Compliance for its outstanding effort during an Air Force Metrology and Calibration assessment last month.

What makes this achievement even more gratifying is that the Kirtland AFB lab has not received a Certificate of Compliance since 1996. The hard work and dedication of the Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory staff is reflected by this great accomplishment.

PMEL is the activity authorized to possess and use base measurement standards to provide calibration services for test, measurement and diagnostic equipment owned by its customers.

The Kirtland AFB PMEL supports approximately 10,000 items owned by over 200 work centers both on and off the base. Organizations supported include the 377th Air Base Wing, 58th Special Operations Wing, Air Force Research Laboratory, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Air Force Operational Test and Evalua-

tion Center, Space and Missile Systems Center, Detachment 12, New Mexico Air National Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force contractors.

The Air Force Metrology and Calibration Assessment and Certification Program inspects critical areas of a PMEL operation biannually. These sections are the facilities and environmental control system, measurement capability and the quality system.

The facilities and environmental control system must be able to maintain stringent temperature standards in order to be rated acceptable. The slightest variation may have adverse effects on the equipment. Dust infiltration, vibration and electrical power systems are also evaluated and must be in full compliance. Kirtland AFB PMEL underwent a major renovation of the environmental control system in 2003 and has maintained an almost perfectly controlled environment ever since.

The measurement capability assessment verifies the ability of the PMEL to make extremely precise measurements

that are traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. All of the processes for calibrating test, measurement and diagnostic equipment, the application of metrology and the use of PMEL standards are assessed.

The quality system is the overall structure of PMEL responsible for quality management. It is reviewed to confirm PMEL is in compliance with applicable directives, technical orders, instructions or other contractual documents. Particular attention is given to the total quality program to ensure that the outgoing product meets the highest quality standards possible. The process of identifying and correcting faulty processes or procedures is closely scrutinized.

The Air Force Metrology and Calibration assessment was performed Aug. 4-15. After review of supporting documentation on the new environmental control system and the total quality program, the laboratory was certified and awarded a Certificate of Compliance in April to indicate that all areas met the assessment criteria.

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Movies

109
TEAM
KIRTLAND
members are
delayed in
14
locations

Force
Protection
Condition
ALPHA

Straight Talk
853-4636